

- 1.** A method comprising:
transferring a device driver file and a first portion of network-specific data from a station to a host computing device;
installing at said host computing device a device driver that is represented by said device driver file; and
transmitting a data block into a shared-communications medium that constitutes a network, wherein said host computing device generates said data block and wherein said host computing device uses said device driver to transfer said data block to said station;
wherein said first portion of network-specific data defines said network.
- 2.** The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying said first portion of network-specific data at said host computing device.
- 3.** The method of claim 1 further comprising reading an AutoRun file and executing a Setup file, wherein said AutoRun file and said Setup file are stored on said station and wherein said Setup file is for installing said device driver at said host computing device.
- 4.** The method of claim 1 wherein said device driver file is stored at said station in one of a flash memory, a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, and a magnetic disk memory.
- 5.** The method of claim 1 wherein said network-specific data define a security configuration and a network configuration.
- 6.** The method of claim 5 wherein said security configuration comprises encryption-related and authentication-related parameters, and wherein said network configuration comprises a network identifier.
- 7.** The method of claim 6 wherein said network identifier is an IEEE 802.11 basic service set identifier.
- 8.** The method of claim 1 wherein a second portion of network-specific data resides at said station and is unreadable by said host computing device.
- 9.** An apparatus comprising:
a memory for storing a device driver file and a first portion of network-specific data;

a host interface for transferring said device driver file and said first portion of network-specific data to a host computing device; and
a transmitter for transmitting a data block into a shared-communications medium that constitutes a network, wherein said data block is received from said host computing device using a device driver that is that is represented by said driver file;
wherein said first portion of network-specific data defines said network.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said network-specific data define a security configuration and a network configuration.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said security configuration comprises encryption-related and authentication-related parameters, and wherein said network configuration comprises a network identifier.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said network identifier is an IEEE 802.11 basic service set identifier.

13. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein a second portion of network-specific data resides at said station and is unreadable by said host computing device.

14. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a host computing device for:
1) installing said device driver;
2) generating said data block; and
3) displaying said first portion of network-specific data.

15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said memory is also for storing an AutoRun file and a Setup file.

16. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said memory comprises one of a flash memory, a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, and a magnetic disk memory.

17. An apparatus comprising:
a station for:

1) transferring a device driver file and a first portion of network-specific data to a host computing device; and
2) transmitting a data block into a shared-communications medium that constitutes a network; and
a host computing device for:

- 1) installing a device driver that is represented by said device driver file;
- 2) generating said data block; and
- 3) using said device driver to transfer said data block to said station;

wherein said first portion of network-specific data defines said network.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said host computing device is also for displaying said first portion of network-specific data.

19. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said host computing device is also for:

- 1) reading an AutoRun file; and
- 2) executing a Setup file;

wherein said AutoRun file and said Setup file are stored at said station and wherein said Setup file is for installing said device driver at said host computing device.

20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said station is also for storing said device driver file in one of a flash memory, a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, and a magnetic disk memory.

21. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said network-specific data define a security configuration and a network configuration.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said security configuration comprises encryption-related and authentication-related parameters, and wherein said network configuration comprises a network identifier.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said network identifier is an IEEE 802.11 basic service set identifier.

24. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein a second portion of network-specific data resides at said station and is unreadable by said host computing device.